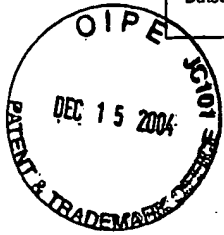


AF/1762  
IPW

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: December 13, 2004      Signature: *[Signature]*  
(Kevin Cronin)

Docket No.: 022723-0017  
(PATENT)



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:

Stephen J. Mashl, et al.

Confirmation No: 7870

Application No.: 09/817,757

Group Art Unit: 1762

Filed: March 26, 2001

Examiner: M. Padgett

For: CORROSION RESISTANT COMPONENT  
AND METHOD FOR FABRICATING SAME

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE**

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This communication is in response to the Office Action dated October 12, 2004 and is timely. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or overpayment in the required fees to our Deposit Account No. 141449 under order No. 22723-17. Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** being on page the page following the Amendments to the Claims.

12/21/04  
Vh LPP  
OK to enter